

antigens previously used. Also chimeric antibodies in trimeric form can be created with the current invention, which could endow greatly increased avidity of an antibody in neutralizing its antigen.--

Please amend the paragraph appearing on page 15, lines 1-⁵ as follows:

--Fig. 5. Quantitative analysis of the neutralizing activity of trimeric soluble human TNF-RII-T2 against human TNF- α . The experiment was carried out as Fig 4. ~~Fig. 4A~~. Two hours after adding the Alamar Blue dye, the culture medium as indicted from each well was analyzed at OD575. The readings were normalized against wells with either no TNF- α (100% viability) added or with TNF- α without neutralizing agent (0% viability) added.--

Please amend the paragraph appearing on page 20, line 16 to page 21, line 4 as follows:

--Prior to this invention, nearly all therapeutic antibodies and soluble receptor-Fc fusion proteins, such as ~~Enbrel~~ Enbrel®, are dimeric in structure (~~Fig. 1~~ Figures 1A-1D). Although these molecules, compared to their monomeric counterparts, have been shown to bind their target antigens or ligands with increased avidity, it is predicted that they are still imperfect, due to structural constrains, to bind their targets that have a homotrimeric structure. Examples of such therapeutically important trimeric ligands include TNF family of cytokines and HIV coat protein gp120. Therefore, from a structural point of